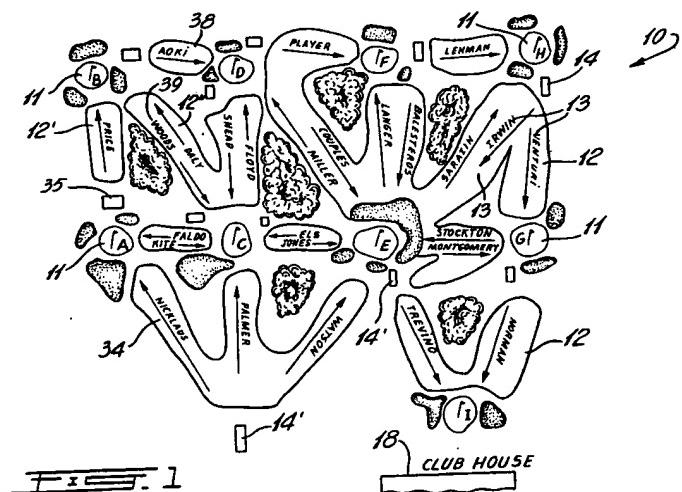


REMARKS

By the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to specify that the first direction is clockwise and the second direction is counterclockwise, claims 2 and 15 have been cancelled¹, and the dependency of claims 3 and 21 has been changed to reflect the cancellation of claims 2 and 15, respectively. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3-14, and 16-21 will be pending in the application.

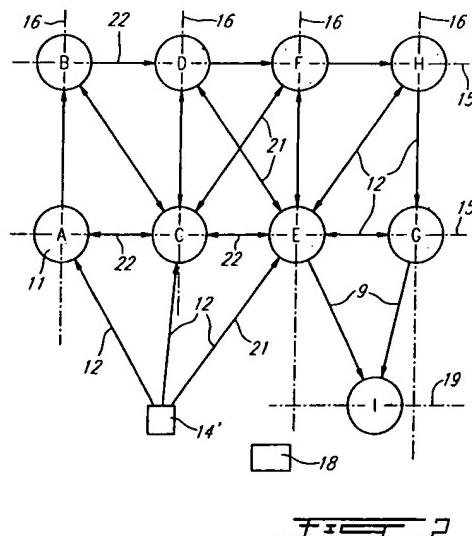
Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102/§103

Claims 1-5, 7-18 and 21 have been rejected as being anticipated by US 6036606 to Dumas. Claims 6, 19, and 20 have been rejected as being obvious over Dumas in view of JP 20141 to Kokai. Dumas discloses a golf course wherein the green areas (A-I) and the fairway areas 12 are disposed in a predetermined web pattern. The starting tee area 14 and the last putting green area I are located close to a golf club building 18. (See Figure 1, below.)



¹Claims 2 and 15 originally set forth that the first direction is clockwise and the second direction is counterclockwise. Accordingly, the amendment of claim 1 (or any of the other claims) does not present any new issues.

The Dumas web pattern (for a nine-hole course) is comprised of two parallel axes 15 and four parallel axes 16 positioned substantially perpendicular thereto. The green areas A-H are located at the eight intersections of the axes 15/16. The starting tee area 14 and the last green area I are located on an axis 19 which is parallel the axes 15 (and close to the golf club building 18). The fairways 12 are defined by lines between green areas A-H, these lines being either parallel to the axes 15, parallel to the axes 16, or a diagonal between catty-corner adjacent green areas. Three fairways 12 extend from the starting tee 14' to the green areas A, C and E, respectively and two fairways 12 extend to the last green area I from green areas E and G, respectively. (See Dumas Figure 2, below.)



The Dumas fairways are structured so that every golfer will start at the staring tee 14', each green area is played only once, and without "crossing" links with other golfers. For example, with the golf course shown in Figures 1 and 2, there are at least eighteen possible link combinations and golfers can be compactly scheduled to play simultaneously different link combinations. (See Dumas Figures 3A and 3C, below.).

9 GREEN COURSE MANAGEMENT			
HOLES	LINKS COMBINATIONS	TIME	COURSE
1	A A A A A A A A A A A A C C C E	07: 00	A 12 ACB DFH EGI
2	B B B B B B B B C C C C A A A C	07: 10	B 12 ACB DFH EGI
3	C C C C C D D D D B B B B B B B A	07: 20	C 12 ACB DFH EGI
4	D D D D E C C C F D D D D D D D B	07: 30	FREE LINE (L) 12 ACB DFH EGI
5	E F F F D E F F C E F F F E F F D	07: 40	D 12 ACB DFH EGI
6	F E H H F E H E F E H H F E H H F	07: 50	E 12 ACB DFH EGI
7	H H E G H H H E H H H E G H H E G H	08: 00	F 12 ACB DFH EGI
8	G G E G G G G G G G E G G G E G	08: 10	G 12 ACB DFH EGI
9	I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	08: 20	H 12 ACB DFH EGI
		08: 30	I 12 ACB DFH EGI
		08: 40	J 12 ACB DFH EGI
		08: 50	K 12 ACB DFH EGI
		FREE LINE	
		09: 10	A ² 15 CAB DFE HGI
		09: 20	B ² 15 CAB DFE HGI
		09: 30	C ² 15 CAB DFE HGI
		09: 40	L ² 15 CAB DFE HGI
		09: 50	D ² 15 CAB DFE HGI
		10: 00	E ² 15 CAB DFE HGI
		10: 10	F ² 15 CAB DFE HGI
		10: 20	G ² 15 CAB DFE HGI
		10: 30	H ² 15 CAB DFE HGI
		10: 40	I ² 15 CAB DFE HGI
		10: 50	J ² 15 CAB DFE HGI
		11: 00	K ² 15 CAB DFE HGI
		FREE LINE	
		11: 20	M 10 ABC DEF HGI
		11: 30	N 10 ABC DEF HGI
		11: 40	O 10 ABC DEF HGI
		11: 50	L ² 10 ABC DEF HGI
		12: 00	P 10 ABC DEF HGI
		12: 10	Q 10 ABC DEF HGI
		12: 20	R 10 ABC DEF HGI
		12: 30	S 10 ABC DEF HGI
		12: 40	T 10 ABC DEF HGI
		12: 50	U 10 ABC DEF HGI
		13: 00	V 10 ABC DEF HGI
		13: 10	W 10 ABC DEF HGI
		FREE LINE	

It is respectfully submitted that Dumas does not disclose a golf course having both a first set of sequential fairway paths F1(1) - F1(N) in a clockwise direction and a second set of sequential fairway paths F2(1) - F2(N) in a counterclockwise direction. While the Dumas course can be played in a clockwise direction (E → C → A → B → D → F → H → G → I), it is not possible to play it in a counterclockwise direction.²

²With applicant's golf course, a nine-hole arrangement would comprise a first set of fairway paths comprising T(1) to G(1), T(2) to G(2), T(3) to G(3), T(4) to G(4), T(5) to G(5), T(6) to G(6), T(7) to G(7), T(8) to G(8) and T(9) to G(9) and a second set of fairway paths comprising T(1) to G(8), T(9) to G(7), T(8) to G(6), T(7) to G(5), T(6) to G(4), T(5) to G(3), T(4) to G(2), T(3) to G(1) and T(2) to G(9). (See applicant's claim 13.) Dumas does not show or suggest such a nine-hole arrangement. Likewise, in an eighteen-hole arrangement, the first set of fairway paths would comprise T(1) to G(1), T(2) to G(2), T(3) to G(3), T(4) to G(4), T(5) to G(5), T(6) to G(6), T(7) to G(7), T(8) to G(8), T(9) to G(9), T(10) to G(10), T(11) to G(11), T(12) to G(12), T(13) to G(13), T(14) to G(14), T(15) to G(15), T(16) to G(16), T(17) to G(17), and T(18) to G(18); and the second set of fairway paths would comprise T(1) to G(17), T(18) to G(16), T(17) to G(15), T(16) to G(14), T(15) to G(13), T(14) to G(12), T(13) to G(11), T(12) to G(10), T(11) to G(9), T(10) to G(8), T(9) to G(7), T(8) to G(6), T(7) to G(5), T(6) to G(4), T(5) to G(3), T(4) to G(2), T(3) to G(1), and T(2) to G(18). (See applicant's claim 14.)

Also, the Dumas golf course does not have tee-areas and green-areas arranged in a perimeter region around a central non-course region³ as such an arrangement would violate its "predetermined web pattern."⁴ Dumas also expressly teaches locating its starting tee area its putting green area at predetermined positions with respect to one another when it is desirable that they be close to a golf club building to provide services to the golf players. Accordingly, whatever the teachings of Kokai may be regarding clubhouse location the applied art does not show or suggest locating a club house, a parking lot, a practice green, and/or a tennis court on a central non-course area.⁵

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, this application is now believed to be in a condition for allowance and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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³See applicant's dependent claims 3-5.

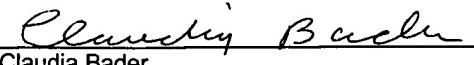
⁴The Examiner contends that "the areas of the course not being played or the areas between the fairways may be considered the central non-course region." However, presently-not-being-played areas still constitute part of the course. As for any small areas between certain fairways, the tee-areas and green areas are not arranged in a perimeter region therearound.

⁵See applicant's claim 6.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper or thing referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: December 20, 2004


Claudia Bader

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